PRESIDENT: I do not think he said that our industries did not decay even though the East India Company knew about it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: He said that it did not adversely affect it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I did not say that either.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: That was how I understood him.

I press my motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, apart from the advantages that the State may derive from the participation in this exhibition, I may explain that we have undertaken to participate in this exhibition long before the advent of this Council. I think it is not right to go back upon our word.

As regards our raw products, it is, no doubt, very good that we should manufacture and send our finished products. But it will take a long time, as explained by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, to do so. Till then, are we to keep our raw products? We are not getting sufficient value for our products, because we are not in a position to correspond direct with the proper markets and eliminate the middleman. The profit is all taken now by the middleman whom we will be able to eliminate by participation in this exhibition.

As regards ivory articles, Mr. Madhava Variar says that ivory articles cannot be made on a commercial basis. There is one gentleman in Srikantesvaram, who makes ivory articles.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: On a large scale?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Yes, on a large scale. He makes excellent articles and makes a very good profit. The manufactures are sent all over India, so that it cannot be said that ivory articles cannot be made on a commercial scale.

The motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

The grant was made.

THE DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move that the Destruction of Records Amendment Bill be finally read and passed by the Council. It was considered by the Council at its last meeting; and I move that the same be now passed.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I second it.

The motion was agreed to by the Council.

THE TOLLS RECOVERY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move that the Tolls Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, which was also considered by the Council at its last meeting, be finally read and passed.

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. K. GEORGE: I second the motion.

The Bill was passed.

At this stage, the Deputy President took the chair.

THE TRAVANCORE EZHAVA BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to propose that the Ezhava Bill be taken up for consideration by the House now.

In so doing, I may make a few observations as to the history of this Bill itself.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I wish to place before the Council certain petitions which I have received from the voters and others in the taluk of Trivandrum.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I also wish to present a few petitions sent by the Ezhava voters of the Quilon taluk asking me to present them to this Council. In doing so, I may say—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think you had better reserve what you have to say. Let Mr. Subba Aiyar finish his speech.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: In making the motion that the Bill be taken up for consideration, I have to make a few observations with regard to the history of the Bill. Owing to the incessant and forcible agitation of the community at successive sessions of the Assembly that there should be a bill to regulate marriage, intestate succession, partition and other matters connected with the Ezhava *tarwad*; the Government appointed a committee to inquire and make the necessary recommendations in the form of a bill. That was in 1916. When that committee was about to begin its labours, agitation was started again urging that it would not be enough if the committee expressed its views without taking evidence and without ascertaining the sense of the Ezhava community in Travancore. Government thought that there was considerable force in that argument, and, therefore, they appointed a committee consisting of a president and the following six members, *viz.*, Mr. M. Govindan B. A., B. L., Mr. N. Kumaran B. A., B. L., Mr. N. Kumaran Asan, Mr. C. Kunjuraman, Mr. K. M. Krishnan, and V. K. Kochunni Vaidyan, all belonging to the Ezhava community and following the *marumakkathayam* and the *misravazhi* system of inheritance, that is to say, the sections of the community intended to be regulated by the present bill. That committee submitted its report, which was an unanimous one, in 1919. In other words, all the members forming the community agreed to the bill which was presented to the Council in 1919. It is now four years since then. The late Council referred the bill to a Select Committee and the report of the Select Committee was submitted to the late Council at its meeting for the last time. But inasmuch as the bill could not be passed at that meeting and as the final reading had to come up before this Council, it was thought desirable in the interests of the community itself to defer the consideration of the bill, so that it might be taken up by this enlarged Legislative Council consisting of a majority of elected non-official members.

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